

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10-13 are presently pending in this application. Claims 8 and 9 are hereby cancelled.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the previous rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 8, 12 and 13 in view of Murakoshi based on the arguments set forth in the Amendment filed August 31, 2005.

In addition, Applicants thank the Examiner for accepting the amended drawings filed on August 31, 2005.

Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-7 are allowed, and claims 10-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Via the foregoing amendments, claims 10-13 are rewritten in independent form. Inasmuch as claims 8 and 9 have been cancelled, all of the remaining claims, i.e., claims 1-7 and 10-13, are now in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is hereby earnestly solicited.

The rejection of claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,558,010) is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

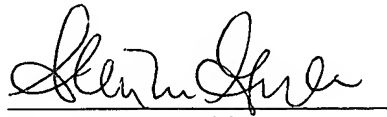
If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/670,728

ART UNIT 2875
Q77530

An Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter with appropriate fee accompanies this document.
The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all additional required fees (except the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any over-payments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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